

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Melissa McCaw, Secretary, CT Office of Policy and Management
FROM: James S. Butler, Executive Director
DATE: 30 June 2022
SUBJECT: SCCOG FY 2022 RSG Proposed Spending Plan

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/TRANSMITTAL

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is pleased to submit its proposed Spending Plan for its FY 2022 Regional Service Grant (RSG) of \$380,463. This Spending Plan will allow a continuation of SCCOG services and programs, and will include some new initiatives, all geared toward the statutorily-stated goal of achieving efficiencies in the delivery of municipal services. These grant funds and the projects they support will be used to complement other regional planning activities funded by other sources, such as SCCOG's transportation planning program, the provision of municipal planner services to member towns for a fee, the region's emergency management planning program, and SCCOG's efforts to plan for and mitigate the impacts that the U. S. Naval Submarine Base and surrounding municipalities have on each other.

The SCCOG counts as its municipal members twenty-two towns, cities, and boroughs. The SCCOG also involves as affiliate non-voting members the only two federally recognized Native American Tribes in the state, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe, and has liaison representation from the region's two military installations, the U.S. Naval Submarine Base and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The SCCOG has long held regional collaboration and cooperation among its members as a primary goal, first as one of the earliest regional planning agencies in the state, and then since its formation as a Council of Governments in 1992. The SCCOG's chief elected officials, city and town managers, and staff take great pride in the agency's accomplishments to date, and look forward to continuing to be a leader in Connecticut in seeing its municipalities working together for the betterment of the region.

II. SUMMARY BUDGET

A. Management/Regional Leadership	\$ 80,463
B. Regional Planning/Coordination	\$ 210,000
C. Statutorily Required Activities	\$ 49,000
D. Public Outreach/Communications	\$ 14,000
E. Technical Support	\$ 27,000
F. TOTAL	\$ 380,463

III. SPECIFIC PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

A. Management/Regional Leadership

- Overall program management - \$49,463
- Provide support to and participate in regional economic development efforts by the Eastern CT Workforce Investment (EWIB) Board, Thames River Heritage Park Foundation (TRHPF), and participation in and support of the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer), Eastern CT Tourism District, Health Improvement Collaborative of SE CT, and Eastern CT Health Collaborative. - \$30,000
- Participate in and take leadership role in ongoing task force preparing for anticipated upcoming BRAC - \$1,000

B. Regional Planning/Coordination

- Comprehensive planning: including amendments to and implementation of SCCOG's Regional Plan of Conservation and Development - \$15,000
- Housing planning and advocacy: including staffing the Southeastern CT Housing Alliance (SECHA); supporting municipal compliance with recent statutory changes concerning housing - \$23,000
- Support SUBASE New London and Electric Boat: continued support and follow-up for the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) implementation grant project (in FY 2022, complete administration of DOD-funded parking management plan for City of Groton) - \$25,000
- Regional wastewater planning: coordinate the implementation activities recommended in the 2019 regional waste water management plan, including the formation of a SCCOG Regional Wastewater Management Committee - \$12,000
- Regional water planning: including staffing the Eastern CT Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) - \$5,000
- Regional stormwater planning: participate in and support of Eastern CT Conservation District's regional stormwater collaborative; provide MS4 assistance to region's municipalities - \$5,000
- Climate Resilience/Sustainability: Support of Sustainability and Climate Resilience local initiatives, including FEMA Flood Insurance Program - \$15,000
- Regional shared services and multi-municipal initiatives: continuing implementation of projects recommended in Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant funded projects Regional Human Services Shared Services Study (in FY 2022, assist with regional board/volunteer recruitment) and Regional Municipal Shared Services Study (in FY 2022, develop regional capacity to offer additional specialist services e.g. Building Official on contract basis to town facing staffing shortages) - \$25,000
- Other regional projects: management, support, and implementation of other regional studies and projects such as the Regional Bike/Pedestrian Plan; and Region-wide Fiscal Impact Analysis/Model - \$25,000
- Historic Preservation: Technical assistance to region's municipalities with historic preservation and village district administration - \$5,000

Member Municipalities:

Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * Borough of Jewett City * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham

- Brownfields: Assistance to municipalities in obtaining and administering brownfield assessment/remediation funding - \$5,000
- COVID-19 Recovery: coordination of municipal and stakeholder responses; administration of DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee; coordination with region's health districts; assistance to municipalities in ARPA funding decision making, compliance, and administration - \$50,000

C. Statutorily Required Activities

- Human services planning: including staffing the SCCOG Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC) and related human services delivery efforts - \$20,000
- Local land use referrals: conduct reviews of statutorily required referrals of potential projects having inter-municipal impact - \$5,000
- Digital Parcel Data: Collection and management of the data required by Public Acts such as PA 18-175 (digital parcel files) - \$24,000

D. Public Outreach/Communications

- Public information and participation: including the maintenance of a COG web site and regional GIS, and communications of SCCOG activities to its members and the public via newsletters, Facebook, and other social media - \$10,000
- Legislative affairs: develop an annual legislative agenda, and communicate and coordinate with the southeastern CT legislative delegation throughout the year - \$4,000

E. Technical Support

- Census-related activities: technical assistance to municipal staff and the public in interpreting results of the 2020 Census, and development and preparation of reports illustrating demographic changes in the region - \$2,000
- Training: training programs for SCCOG chief elected officials and members of local commissions (in FY 2021, SCCOG prepared a series of educational videos for planning and zoning commissions and zoning boards of appeal); ensuring local compliance with recent statutes requiring land use commission and zoning enforcement training/certification - \$5,000
- Technical Support: coordinating programs for and staffing of the Regional Planning Commission; conducting information sessions on a quarterly basis for the region's professional planners; assistance to municipalities in hiring/contracting staff - \$20,000

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